

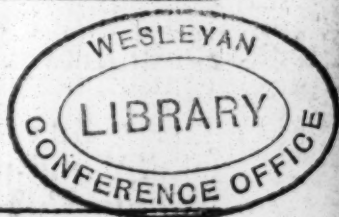
ANSWER
TO A
LETTER

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Sign'd *N. D.*



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To the AUTHOR, &c.

SIR,

LIMERICK, May 27, 1749.

1. **Y**OU ask, "Why I do not warn the Members of our Society, against Fornication and Adultery?" I answer, For the same Reason, that I do not warn them (in those short Hints) against Rebellion or Murder. Namely, Because I do not apprehend them, to be in immediate Danger thereof: Whereas many of them are in continual Danger, either of "taking the Name of God in vain, of profaning the Day of the LORD, or of Drunkenness, or Brawling, or of uncharitable or unprofitable Conversation."

2. BUT, you say, "Many Persons of great Eminence among you, have been publicly charged with the Commission of these Crimes." And of all other Crimes. But will you undertake to make those Charges good? Whenever your "*Christian Charity* and hearty Desire for our Success in so important a Work," shall oblige you to instance in Particulars, I do hereby promise to give you a particular Answer.

3. "BUT has not a Preacher of your Sect, preach'd and printed to prove the Lawfulness of Polygamy?" I answer, No. No Preacher in Connexion with me, has ever done any such Thing. What Mr. *Hall* of *Salisbury* has done, is no more to me than it is to you: (Only that I am a greater Sufferer by it.) For he renounced all the *Methodists* several Years since: And when I was at *Salisbury*

lisbury last, turn'd both me and my Sister out of his House. No Man therefore of common, Hea-then Humanity, could ever blame *me* for the Faults of that unhappy Man.

- 4. IN “declaring my Abhorrence of all Vices of that kind,” I cannot be more plain and explicit than I have been. I can only declare again, That I believe neither Fornicators, Adulterers, nor unclean Persons shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven: And that I rank together Sorcerers, Whoremongers, Murderers, Idolaters, and *whosoever maketh or loveth a Lye*.

5. I WELL know “A weak Brother,” as you define him, that is, a Man of “prophane Eyes and an unholy Imagination,” if you talk either of Love-feasts, or Persons confessing their Faults to one another, will immediately run over all the Scenes of the *New Atalantis*. But I leave that to himself. I must not neglect a scriptural Advice, because such an one is offended at my following it.

6. YOUR “Friendly Advice to avoid spiritual Selfishness,” I will endeavour to follow as soon as I understand it. At present I do not; neither do I well understand, How any “sober Christian should think me guilty of Arrogance or Self-conceit,” because I relate a Fact in which I had no Share at all: Namely, That other Men “prayed for one another, That they might be healed of the Faults they had confest; and it was so.”

7. You add, “Dr. *Middleton* absolves you from all Boasting, in Relation to the Miracle you worked upon *Kirkman*.” Dr. *Middleton* does me too much Honour, in taking any Notice of so inconsiderable a Person. But, Miracle or no Miracle, the Fact is plain. *William Kirkman*, is (I apprehend)

hend) yet alive: And able to certify for himself, that he had that Cough Threescore Years, and that since that Time, it has not returned.----I do not know, that any "one Patient yet, has died under my Hands." If any Person does, let him declare it, with the Time and Circumstances.

8. You conclude, "Let me beg you, as a Fellow-Christian,----to remove that great Load of Scandal that now lies upon your Sect; and that you will not by a careless or premeditated Silence, ---bring your Self and your Followers, under a just Suspicion, of not being Enemies to certain Vices, which you seem afraid even to name."

Alas, Sir, is your "heartly Wish for my Success" dwindled down to this! And your "Sorrow for any *Overfight*, that should afford Ground of *Cavil*, to *those* who are disposed to think unfavourably of me!" Sir, I take Knowledge of you. I no longer wonder, at your so readily answering for Dr. *Middleton*. I am persuaded none has a better Right so to do: No, not the Gentleman who lately printed in the Publick Papers a Letter to the Lord Bishop of *Exeter*. Well, Sir, you may now lay aside the Mask. I do not require you to stile yourself my *Fellow-Christian*. But we are Fellow-Creatures, at least Fellow-Servants of the Great LORD of Heaven and Earth! May we both serve Him faithfully! For his Sake I remain,

S I R,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WESLEY.

P. S. I did not receive Your's 'till last Night.

